

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A projector apparatus comprising:
 - a color separation optical system which separates illumination light into a plurality of 5 color light components;
 - a plurality of image forming panels illuminated with the plurality of color light components, respectively;
 - a color synthesis optical system which 10 synthesizes the light components from said plurality of image forming panels illuminated;
 - a projecting optical system which projects light from said color synthesis optical system; and
 - transparent substrates each arranged on at 15 least one of incident and exit surface sides of said plurality of image forming panels, each of said transparent substrates holding a polarizer,
 - wherein a thickness of at least one of said plurality of transparent substrates is larger than 20 those of the remaining transparent substrates.
2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the at least one transparent substrate is not less than 1.2 times larger than 25 those of the remaining transparent substrates.
3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said plurality of transparent substrates are essentially formed from a material selected from the group consisting of sapphire, fluorite, and glass.

5 4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one of said plurality of transparent substrates and the remaining transparent substrates are essentially formed from different materials selected from the group consisting of sapphire,
10 fluorite, and glass.

5 5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one transparent substrate of said plurality of transparent substrates is essentially
15 formed from a material selected from the group consisting of sapphire, fluorite, and glass, and the remaining transparent substrates are essentially formed from one or two materials which are different from the material of said at least one transparent
20 substrate and are selected from the group consisting of sapphire, fluorite, and glass.

6 6. A projector apparatus comprising:
 a color separation optical system which
25 separates illumination light into a plurality of color light components;
 a plurality of image forming panels illuminated

with the plurality of color light components,
respectively;

a color synthesis optical system which
synthesizes the light components from said plurality
5 of image forming panels illuminated;

a projecting optical system which projects
light from said color synthesis optical system; and
transparent substrates each arranged on at
least one of incident and exit surface sides of said
10 plurality of image forming panels, each of said
transparent substrates holding a polarizer,
wherein an area ratio of at least one of said
plurality of transparent substrates to a polarizer
held by the transparent substrate is larger than area
15 ratios of the remaining transparent substrates to
polarizers held by the remaining transparent
substrates.

7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
20 the area ratio of the at least one transparent
substrate to the polarizer held by said at least one
transparent substrate is not less than 1.2 times
larger than the area ratios of the remaining
transparent substrates to the polarizers held by the
25 remaining transparent substrates.

8. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein

said plurality of transparent substrates are essentially formed from a material selected from the group consisting of sapphire, fluorite, and glass.

5 9. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said at least one of said plurality of transparent substrates and the remaining transparent substrates are essentially formed from different materials selected from the group consisting of sapphire,
10 fluorite, and glass.

10. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said at least one transparent substrates of said plurality of transparent substrates is essentially
15 formed from a material selected from the group consisting of sapphire, fluorite, and glass, and the remaining transparent substrates are essentially formed from one or two materials which are different from the material of said at least one transparent
20 substrate and are selected from the group consisting of sapphire, fluorite, and glass.

11. A projector apparatus comprising:
 a color separation optical system which
25 separates illumination light into a plurality of color light components;
 a plurality of image forming panels illuminated

with the plurality of color light components,
respectively;

a color synthesis optical system which
synthesizes the light components from said plurality
5 of image forming panels illuminated;

a projecting optical system which projects
light from said color synthesis optical system; and
transparent substrates each arranged on at
least one of incident and exit surface sides of said
10 plurality of image forming panels, each of said
transparent substrates holding a polarizer,

wherein an area of at least one of said
plurality of transparent substrates is larger than
those of the remaining transparent substrates.

15

12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein
the area of the at least one transparent substrate is
not less than 1.2 times larger than those of the
remaining transparent substrates.

20

13. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein
said plurality of transparent substrates are
essentially formed from a material selected from the
group consisting of sapphire, fluorite, and glass.

25

14. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein
said at least one of said plurality of transparent

substrates and the remaining transparent substrates are essentially formed from different materials selected from the group consisting of sapphire, fluorite, and glass.

5

15. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said at least one transparent substrate of said plurality of transparent substrates is essentially formed from a material selected from the group 10 consisting of sapphire, fluorite, and glass, and the remaining transparent substrates are essentially formed from one or two materials which are different from the material of said at least one transparent substrate and are selected from the group consisting 15 of sapphire, fluorite, and glass.

16. A projector apparatus comprising:
a color separation optical system which separates illumination light into a plurality of 20 color light components;
a plurality of image forming panels illuminated with the plurality of color light components, respectively;
a color synthesis optical system which synthesizes the light components from said plurality 25 of image forming panels illuminated;
a projecting optical system which projects

- light from said color synthesis optical system; and
transparent substrates each arranged on at
least one of incident and exit surface sides of said
plurality of image forming panels, each of said
5 transparent substrates holding a polarizer,
wherein a surface area of at least one of said
plurality of transparent substrates is larger than
those of the remaining transparent substrates.
- 10 17. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein
the at least one transparent substrate has a shape
with a curvature, and the remaining transparent
substrates have a planar shape.
- 15 18. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein
said plurality of transparent substrates are
essentially formed from a material selected from the
group consisting of sapphire, fluorite, and glass.
- 20 19. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein
said at least one of said plurality of transparent
substrates and the remaining transparent substrates
are essentially formed from different materials
selected from the group consisting of sapphire,
25 fluorite, and glass.
20. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

said at least one transparent substrate of said plurality of transparent substrates is essentially formed from a material selected from the group consisting of sapphire, fluorite, and glass, and the
5 remaining transparent substrates are essentially formed from one or two materials which are different from the material of said at least one transparent substrate and are selected from the group consisting of sapphire, fluorite, and glass.

10